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REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10, and 12-18 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims 1-2, 4-5, 7-8, and 10-13 are amended to more clearly define the invention and claims.

No new matter has been added. Claims 9 and 11 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 8, 10, 14, 19, and 21 are independent.

Claims 1-6 and 8-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al. Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious with respect to Matsumoto et al. and in view of the Examiner's "official notice."

These rejections are respectfully traversed:

I. THE CLAIMED INVENTION

An exemplary embodiment of the claimed invention, as defined by, for example, independent claim 1, is directed to a stereoscopic image processing apparatus for calculating a parallax between a pair of images that includes correlation evaluating means for evaluating a correlation of brightness between a first pixel block provided in one of the pair of images and a second pixel block provided in the other of the pair of images and region size changing means for changing a size of the first and second pixel blocks in evaluating said correlation.

Further, in some embodiments, a boundary determining section may determine a boundary between two portions of the images. For example, the boundary may be the horizontal boundary between the road and objects above the road. The invention preferably calculates a parallax differently for objects on either side of the boundary. In other embodiments, the parallax is calculated differently based on ambient conditions, such as the weather.